

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC GENERAL DEBATE

1. JULY 12 GENERAL DEBATE CONTINUED WITH STATEMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES OF ALL FIVE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS.

2. ECLA: LATIN AMERICA AS A WHOLE HAS HAD INTERNAL ECONOMIC GROWTH ALONG WITH CUTS IN INFLATION DURING 1977.

THERE WERE ALSO REDUCTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL DEBTS, AS WELL AS A \$10 BILLION POSITIVE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. BUT THIS SUCCESS IN SOME CASES CAME AT THE COST OF PAY CUTS AND LOSS OF JOBS. MOREOVER, LATIN AMERICA'S ABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS HAS GROWN BECAUSE EARLIER INDUSTRIALIZATION IS NOW BEGINNING TO PAY OFF. LATIN AMERICA IS INTERESTEDLY WATCHING THE TALKS AMONG THE GREAT INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS. LATIN AMERICA IMPORTS AS MUCH FROM THE US AS THE EEC DOES AND THREE TIMES AS MUCH AS JAPAN DOES. MAJOR ECONOMIC POWERS MUST REMEMBER THAT INTERDEPENDENCE MUST BE A TWO-WAY STREET; THE RESURGENCE OF PROTECTIONISM IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE LATINS. MOREOVER, IF LDCS ARE TO ACHIEVE ACCELER-

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ATED DEVELOPMENT THEY WILL HAVE TO BE ABLE TO ACCELERATE THEIR IMPORTS AND THAT IN TURN WILL DEPEND ON THEIR BEING ABLE TO ACCELERATE THEIR EXPORTS. THERE IS A NEED TO PRODUCE CONCRETE RESULTS REGARDS ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIEO, ESPECIALLY AT THE CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND TCDC. A REGIONAL APPROACH IS A NECESSARY COMPLEMENT TO THE GLOBAL APPROACH. ECLA THEREFORE BELIEVES IN SOME DECEN-

TRALIZATION OF THE UN. HERE THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS HAVE
IMPORTANT ROLES TO PLAY.

3. ECA: AFRICA HAS ON THE WHOLE FALLEN SHORT OF THE 6
GROWTH RATE TARGETTED FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT DECADE. THERE
WAS A LITANY OF SAD STATISTICS AND A DESCRIPTION OF PHYSI-
CAL PROBLEMS AFRICAN ECONOMY FACES. NIEO MUST BE A FUN-
DAMENTAL RESTRUCTURING, NOT A "FACE LIFT". FOR AFRICANS
RESTRUCTURING MUST LARGEY BEGIN AT HOME AND REQUIRES MORE
THAN A MECHANICAL CHECK LIST OF THINGS THAT ARE WRONG
AND A LIST OF CORRECTIVES. SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS OF AD-
VANCED ECONOMIES IS UNLIKELY WITHOUT SIMULTANEOUS SOLUTION
OF DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS OF THIRD WORLD. SOLUTION OF AFRI-
CAN DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH PROBLEMS GOES FAR BE-
YOND AVAILABILITY OF ACCESS FOR AFRICAN EXPORTS TO DEVEL-
OPED ECONOMY MARKETS, OR LARGE SUPPLIES OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE
OBTAINED THROUGH TRADE OR CREDIT. THE THESIS THAT TRADE
(OR AID) CAN SINGLE-HANDEDLY ENABLE MASSIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC
CHANGES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS NO LONGER CREDIBLE.
RATHER, AFRICA NEEDS ASSISTANCE DIRECTED TOWARD THE
AMELIORATION OF FACTORS THAT NOW PERPETUATE AFRICA'S CON-
TINUED DEPENDENCE ON ECONOMIC FORCES OUTSIDE AFRICA; THIS
ASSISTANCE WOULD ALTER THE AMOUNTS, BALANCE AND CHARACTER
OF FACTORS THAT FUNDAMENTALLY AFFECT DEVELOPMENT AND THE
ECONOMIC GROWTH PROCESS. FLUCTUATIONS IN THE
INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE SYSTEM MAKE DEBT ONE OF TODAY'S
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FASTEST GROWTH INDUSTRIES.

4. ESCAP: THERE HAS BEEN OVERALL GROWTH IN GNP AND IM-
PROVEMENT OF BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION IN DEVELOPING
ASIAN STATES. THE RECENT IMPROVEMENTS CAN, HOWEVER, BE
CONSIDERED IMPROVEMENTS ONLY IN COMPARISON WITH THE DIS-
MAL PERFORMANCE THAT TOOK PLACE EARLIER IN THE DECADE.
CURRENT ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IS STILL BELOW DEVELOPMENT
DECADE TARGETS. ECONOMIC CONCERNs OF DEVELOPING NATIONS
HAVE LED TO PROTECTIONIST MEASURES THAT COVER INTER ALIA
PRODUCTS THAT MANY ESCAP MEMBER STATES PRODUCE, ESPECIALLY
TEXTILES, ELECTRICAL AND ENGINEERING GOODS. THIS IN COM-
BINATION WITH POTENTIAL WEATHER FLUCTUATIONS THAT WILL
HARM AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION MAY LEAD TO SUDDEN CRISES THAT
MAY REQUIRE SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS. NIEO REQUIRES ACCEL-
ERATED ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH INCREASED SELF-RELIANCE AND
SHOULD ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS OF FULFILLING BASIC NEEDS OF
THE PEOPLE, EFFECTING A MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF IN-
COME AND WEALTH, INCREASED PARTICIPATION BY ALL SEGMENTS
OF SOCIETY (ESPECIALLY THE POOR) IN THE DEVELOPMENT PRO-
CESS, AND EFFECTIVE INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.
IN ORDER TO BE AN EFFECTIVE INPUT FOR AN INTERNATIONAL

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, REGION-SPECIFIC STRATEGIES SHOULD BE AMENABLE TO BEING TRANSLATED INTO GLOBAL-LEVEL ACTION. THIS REQUIRES A REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF THE PROGRESS AND CONSTRAINTS ON NEGOTIATIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL FORA AND THEIR BEARING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION. THIS REQUIRES CLOSER COORDINATION AMONG ALL UN ORGANS THAT ARE AFFECTED BY ECOSOC AND GA DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTIONS. AS REGARDS DECENTRALIZATION, UNDP HAS AGREED SINCE 1974 TO DESIGNATE THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS AS EXECUTING AGENCIES OF UNDP. SEVERAL PROJECTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DECENTRALIZED TO ESCAP. WHEN REQUESTED TO EXECUTE PROJECTS WITHIN THEIR COMPETENCE, FULL AUTHORITY SHOULD BE DELEGATED AND

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ADEQUATE BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS MADE TO THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS.

5. ECE: EUROPE HAS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA OF EUROPE MAY BE VIEWED AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND THE DEVELOPING WORLDS. ECE RECEIVED A MAJOR IMPULSE FROM CSCE AND HAS BECOME THE MAIN INSTRUMENT FOR MULTILATERAL IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT PORTIONS OF THE FINAL ACT. THE YEAR'S DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDE A POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, GENERAL ENERGY QUESTIONS, OVERALL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS, TRADE AND TRANSPORT. ECE IS RESPONDING TO CHANGING ECONOMIC SITUATION IN EUROPE BY SEEKING TO STRENGTHEN EAST-WEST ECONOMIC COOPERATION. EAST-WEST TRADE SHOULD BE PLACED ON A MORE STABLE LONG-TERM BASIS. EAST-WEST INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE COOPERATION MUST BE EXPANDED TO COVER SYSTEMATIC

SPECIALIZATION IN PRODUCTION. ONLY A LONG-TERM ORIENTATION TOWARD SPECIALIZATION CAN GIVE A SOLID BASIS TO EXPANSION OF THIS TRADE.

6. ECWA: THE PRESENTATION CONTAINED NO DIRECT MENTION OF ISRAEL. RATHER FOCUS WAS ON DISJUNCTION BETWEEN REGION'S UNCLASSIFIED

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RESOURCES (A LA OPEC) AND THE OVERWHELMING NEEDS OF SOME OF THE NON-OIL PRODUCING STATES OF THE AREA. THE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS, BEYOND ECWA PROGRAMS, ARE INTERNATIONAL IN SCOPE SO THAT INTERNATIONAL FUNDING BEYOND THAT OF REGIONAL OPEC MEMBERS IS REQUIRED. ECWA IS CURRENTLY STUDYING THE NEEDS OF EGYPT IN ANTICIPATION OF THE NEXT BIENNIAL PROGRAM OF WORK AND PRIORITIES. ECWA PROMISES ACTIVE COOPERATION WITH GOE AND WITH ECA REGARDING EGYPT. "NATURALLY, IF EGYPT'S NEEDS INVOLVE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES, APPROPRIATE STEPS WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN TO SECURE THE NECESSARY FUNDS."

7. USDEL IS POUCHING COPIES OF THESE SPEECHES TO DEPT, IO/DHP. VANDEN HEUVEL

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